



## Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

3 January 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: December 29, 2005

### Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in Monroe County. Patchy very low impacts are possible for oceanside Lower Keys today; with patchy very low to low impacts possible for the gulfside Lower Keys tonight through Thursday. No impacts are expected elsewhere in SW Florida through Thursday.

### Analysis

The bloom has continued to dissipate along the SW Florida coastline. Due to technical issues recent satellite imagery is not currently available. Sampling results indicate the bloom is no longer present along-shore SW Florida, with possible background levels remaining in bay and sound areas. Chlorophyll remains elevated offshore Collier and Monroe Counties near 25°35'N, 82°8'W; however, the feature appears to have weakened slightly in both intensity and size as of 12/31.

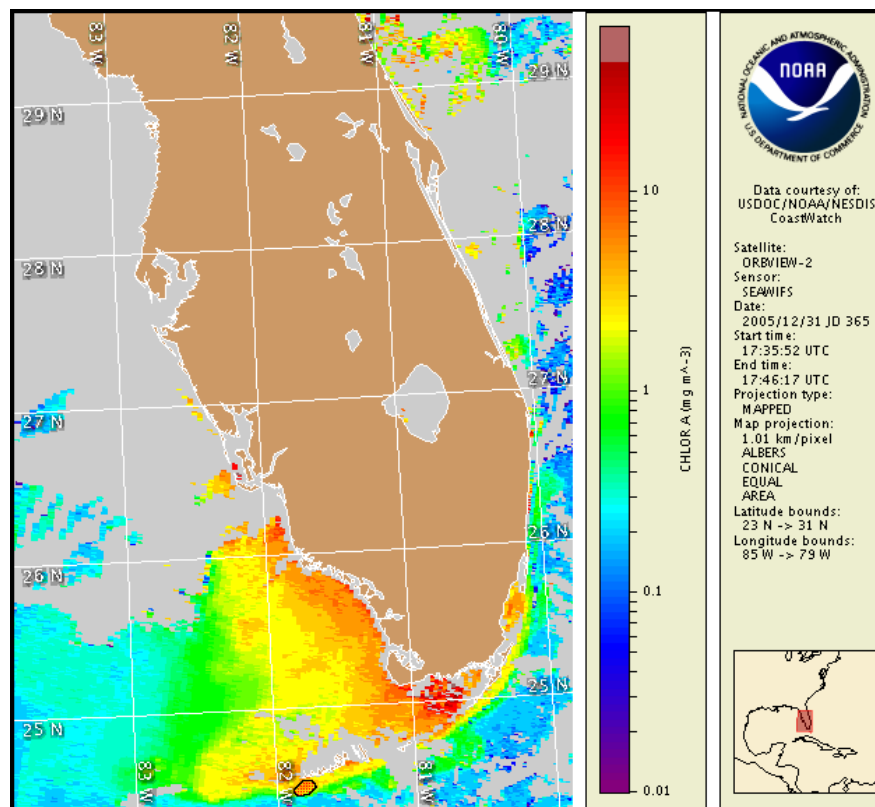
Movement has likely been minimal since 12/30 according to a wind transport model. Continued southerly movement is expected. As of 12/30 satellite chlorophyll levels were continually elevated along the Dixie and Levy county coastline, likely due to river output. No *K. brevis* had been identified in Levy or Dixie County as of 12/27.

The bloom near the Lower Keys remains present. As of 12/31 chlorophyll levels appeared elevated south of Key West near 24°29'N, 81°49'W and to the west of Key West near 24°31'N, 81°56'W. Chlorophyll is continually elevated north and northwest of the Lower Keys. Sampling is recommended throughout this area. Continued transport around the Lower Keys is possible throughout the week.

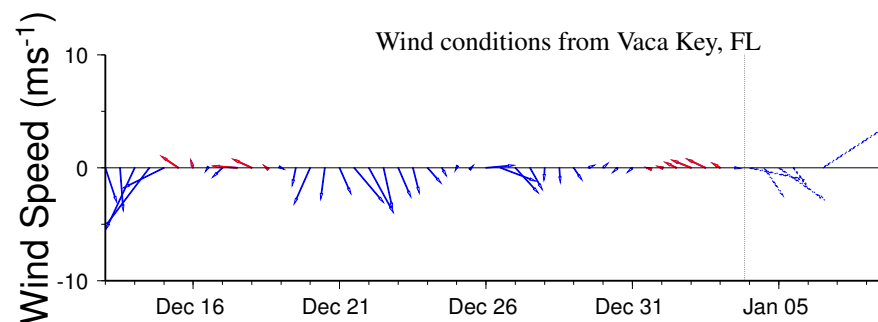
~Fisher, Bronder

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.



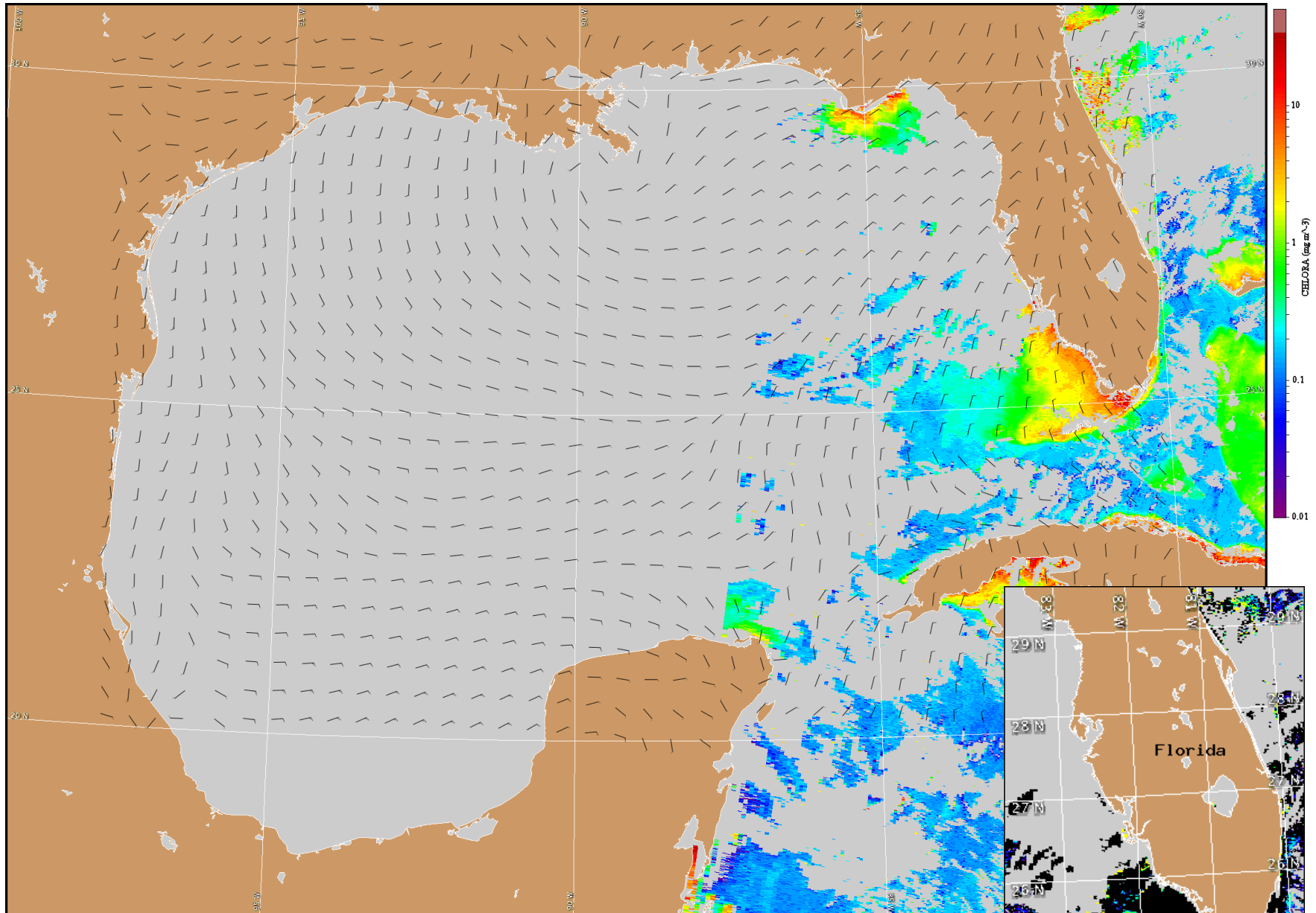
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Southwesterly winds (10-15kts, 5-8m/s) today will shift westerly this afternoon and northerly tonight. Mild (5-10kts, 3-5m/s) northwesterlies on Wednesday, expected to shift westerly on Thursday.

FL Keys: Mild (5kts, 3m/s) southerlies will turn westerly near 10kts (5m/s) today. Northwest to north winds expected tonight through Thursday at 10kts (5m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for January 4, 2006 12Z.

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL

